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Russia Not Ready For Nuclear War?

HYSTERICAL talk of the possibility, even probability, of nuclear war growing out of the acute Berlin crisis is not based on the realities of the situation, in the opinion of a top U. S. intelligence official.

Russia is not prepared to bring on a nuclear war and

wants a 15-year period of peace to develop economic, military and political strength. This is the conviction of Robert Amory Jr., deputy director for intelligence of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Amory reports a year and half ago Soviet leaders agreed that a 15-year period without major hostilities was imperative to the growth of their nation. At present the Russian economy is not mobilized for war or preparing for war, intelligence reports indicate.

Premier Khrushchev is not ready to risk a nuclear war over Berlin, but "expects to force us to chicken out," Mr. Amory says and predicts that if the West is resolute, the Soviet Union will be the one to back down. Evidently this line of thinking from the Central Intelligence Agency has influenced President Eisenhower to take a firm stand on Berlin and the adequacy of this country's defenses.

Evidently the CIA gave more than ordinary consideration to the propriety of making public an analysis of the possible consequences of the Berlin crisis based on intelligence reports. The Amory statement was made in that high official's first on-the-record talk in four years.

Surely it was made in official expectation it would clear the air of hysteria and solidly support the President.

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